

**ABSTRACT**

A method for preventing lesions caused by a virus of the Herpesviridae or Poxviridae family, comprising topically applying a composition consisting essentially of a C1 to C3 monohydroxy alcohol or a C2 to C4 diol and a sufficient amount of an acid to adjust the pH of the composition to below 4.6... Topical administration of the composition is preferred and is effective in treating lesions associated infections by viruses such as herpes simplex. Pharmaceutical compositions for use in the present method are provided.

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